

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A system for automated accounting of document generating device usage comprising a plurality of document generating devices, each document generating device including:

means adapted for acquiring usage data representative of usage of a document generating device in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of user accounts, wherein the usage data includes at least one of:

copier usage data representative of a number of copies made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts,

print usage data representative of a number of prints made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts,

facsimile usage data representative of a number of facsimile transmissions made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts, and

scanning usage data representative of a number of scanning images made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts;

means adapted for receiving, from an associated accounting administrator via data network, report period data corresponding to a selected timing for transmission of accumulated usage data;

means adapted for locally storing accumulated usage data from each of a plurality of document generating device operations;

means adapted for locally storing received report period data;

a timer;

reporting means adapted for periodically outputting, via the data network, the usage data to ~~an~~the associated accounting administrator in accordance with the report period data and the timer;

means adapted for receiving a reset signal from the associated accounting administrator via the data network representative of a reset of at least a portion of accumulated usage data; and

means adapted for resetting locally stored accumulated usage data to a previous state upon receipt of a reset signal.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The system for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 1 wherein the reporting means includes means adapted for outputting the usage data to an associated accounting administrator via at least one of electronic mail transmission, facsimile transmission, FTP transmission, and HTML transmission.

4. (Original) The system for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 1 wherein the reporting means includes means adapted for outputting the usage data to at least one of an electronic mail server, a document management system, an image generating device, and an Internet server.

5. (Original) The system for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 1 wherein the document generating device includes a scanning device, a copying device, a printing device, a facsimile device, and a multifunctional peripheral.

6. (Original) The system for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 1 wherein the reporting means further includes means adapted for selecting parameters for periodically outputting the usage data.

7. (Original) The system for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 6 wherein the means adapted for selecting parameters for periodically outputting usage data include selecting at least one of data reporting period, user accounts to be reported, format of output, transmission type, destination of output, and usage data included.

8. (Currently amended) A method for automated accounting of document generating device usage comprising a plurality of document generating devices, comprising the steps of:

acquiring usage data representative of usage of a document generating device in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of user accounts, wherein the usage data includes at least one of:

copier usage data representative of a number of copies made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts,

print usage data representative of a number of prints made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts,

facsimile usage data representative of a number of facsimile transmissions made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts, and

scanning usage data representative of a number of scanning images made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts;

receiving, from an associated accounting administrator via a data network, report period data corresponding to a selected timing for transmission of accumulated usage data;

locally storing accumulated usage data from each of a plurality of document generating device operations;

locally storing received report period data;

calculating an elapsed time,

periodically outputting, via the data network, the usage data to ~~an~~the associated accounting administrator in accordance with the report period data and the elapsed time;

receiving a reset signal from the associated accounting administrator via the data network representative of a reset of at least a portion of accumulated usage data; and

resetting locally stored accumulated usage data to a previous state upon receipt of a reset signal.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 8 wherein the reporting step includes outputting the usage data to an associated accounting administrator via at least one of electronic mail transmission, facsimile transmission, FTP transmission, and HTML transmission.

11. (Original) The method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 8 wherein the reporting step includes outputting the usage data to at least one of an electronic mail server, a document management system, an image generating device, and an Internet server.

12. (Original) The method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 8 wherein the document generating device includes a scanning device, a copying device, a printing device, a facsimile device, and a multifunctional peripheral.

13. (Original) The method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 8 wherein the reporting step includes selecting parameters for periodically outputting the usage data.

14. (Original) The method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 13 wherein the means adapted for selecting parameters for periodically outputting usage data include selecting at least one of data reporting period, user accounts to be reported, format of output, transmission type, destination of output, and usage data included.

15. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage comprising a plurality of document generating devices, each document generating device including:

means adapted for acquiring usage data representative of usage of a document generating device in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of user accounts, wherein the usage data includes at least one of:

copier usage data representative of a number of copies made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts,

print usage data representative of a number of prints made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts,

facsimile usage data representative of a number of facsimile transmissions made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts, and

scanning usage data representative of a number of scanning images made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts;

means adapted for receiving from an associated accounting administrator via a data network, report period data corresponding to a selected timing for transmission of accumulated usage data;

means adapted for locally storing accumulated usage data from each of a plurality of document generating device operations;

means adapted for locally storing received report period data;

a timer;

reporting means adapted for periodically outputting, via the data network, the usage data to ~~an~~the associated accounting administrator in accordance with the report period data and the timer;

means adapted for receiving a reset signal from the associated accounting administrator via the data network representative of a reset of at least a portion of accumulated usage data; and

means adapted for resetting locally stored accumulated usage data to a previous state upon receipt of a reset signal.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 15 wherein the reporting means includes means adapted for outputting the usage data to an associated accounting administrator via at least one of electronic mail transmission, facsimile transmission, FTP transmission, and HTML transmission.

18. (Original) The computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 15 wherein the reporting means includes means adapted for outputting the usage data to at least one of an electronic mail server, a document management system, an image generating device, and an Internet server.

19. (Original) The computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 15 wherein the document generating device includes a scanning device, a copying device, a printing device, a facsimile device, and a multifunctional peripheral.

20. (Original) The computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 15 wherein the reporting means further includes means adapted for selecting parameters for periodically outputting the usage data.

21. (Original) The computer-readable medium for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 20 wherein the means adapted for selecting parameters for periodically outputting usage data include selecting at least one of data reporting period, user accounts to be reported, format of output, transmission type, destination of output, and usage data included.

22. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage comprising a plurality of document generating devices, comprising the steps of:

acquiring usage data representative of usage of a document generating device in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of user accounts, wherein the usage data includes at least one of:

copier usage data representative of a number of copies made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts,

print usage data representative of a number of prints made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts,

facsimile usage data representative of a number of facsimile transmissions made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts, and scanning usage data representative of a number of scanning images made in accordance with each of the plurality of user accounts; receiving, from an associated accounting administrator via a data network, report period data corresponding to a selected timing for transmission of accumulated usage data; locally storing accumulated usage data from each of a plurality of document generating device operations; locally storing received report period data;
calculating an elapsed time; periodically outputting, via the data network, the usage data to ~~an~~the associated accounting administrator in accordance with the report period data and the elapsed time; receiving a reset signal from the associated accounting administrator via the data network representative of a reset of at least a portion of accumulated usage data; and resetting locally stored accumulated usage data to a previous state upon receipt of reset signal.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) The computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 22 wherein the reporting step includes outputting the usage data to an associated accounting administrator via at least one of electronic mail transmission, facsimile transmission, FTP transmission, and HTML transmission.

25. (Original) The computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 22 wherein the reporting step includes outputting the usage data to at least one of an electronic mail server, a document management system, an image generating device, and an Internet server.

26. (Original) The computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 22 wherein the document generating device includes a scanning device, a copying device, a printing device, a facsimile device, and a multifunctional peripheral.

27. (Original) The computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 22 wherein the reporting step includes selecting parameters for periodically outputting the usage data.

28. (Original) The computer-implemented method for automated accounting of document generating device usage of claim 27 wherein the means adapted for selecting parameters for periodically outputting usage data include selecting at least one of data reporting period, user accounts to be reported, format of output, transmission type, destination of output, and usage data included.